

Robert Hays to Andrew Jackson, December 20, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

COLONEL ROBERT HAYS¹ TO JACKSON.

¹ Col. Robert Hays had married Mrs. Jackson's sister. Previous letters to him are in vol. I., pp. 23, 24, 38, 44, 45, 57, 60.

Nashville December 20, 1814.

Dear Genl. Your's of the 2nd Inst. I recevd. by frydays mail and felt quit[e] Happy, to hear of your Safe arrival at Neworlains, I left home last Evening. Mrs. Jackson was well and Andrew has got nearly well after a Severe attact of the fever. Stockley got home on Saterday was a week and Lydia had a fine Daughter next day. Lydia has been very Sick untill a few days agoe. he has been down but cannot Decend the river with Mrs. Jackson and Rachel B. but Capt'n. Harman Hays will, and when I applyed to Capt'n. Rapirose [?] Partners I was told a Chimney could not be built as a Stove had, and Andrew being not well I found it would not answer. I found a very handsom keel 30 Toon burthen. Mr. James Jackson and the owner aggred on fraughting her at 420 Dollars which I think high. Jackson says by Loading her with your bacon beef oats and corn and Rachel Butler meat meal and corn as some may be Sold which will help to pay for their passage it may do. I have had Tight Times a Trying to fix the copper and other things. number Talks but none put their hands to but myself as yet. I think Harmon will from this out. The boat could Starte I think in eight days from this, but Since I came to Town I saw Colo. Anderson who says he will start from this place dead or alive on the Tenth of next month and he will take about 20 of the handsome men he has and his Musik and go in her boat and him and Harman can lodge together which I think will be best. I do not want to hear of Mrs. Jackson going down

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to you without some of the Military as an Escort, and the Colo Say he will double man the oars on boat. no Overseer as yet is got. Fields is Still with the hands he is a good honest man but he drinks too hard and Says get some other person.² he will not do without Some person to direct and cause him to do better.

² John Fields had been engaged by Jackson as overseer, for the year ending Dec. 25, 1814. See vol. I., p. 431.

I have been obliged to till [tell] fields he should not keep his hands a doying nothing as the[y] did not Tread out thirty bushells or more of oats in three days, he canot command the negro women. I wish he would answer. I pity him. Your Ason was hired to Saw to Reathurford at Saveren Donelsons. he give Ason a pass to go to Nashville and Ason on Sunday night was a week got into a Stable to take a horse at Colo Campbells on the load [?] to Ride over mill Creek. a whiteman attempted to take him. ason Cut the man with a knife through his Cloaths and the man shot a large load of Small Shot into his back which is Still in him. he is got home and I think will live. I shall do every thing I can as to seeing things goying on well owntill Some confidential person can be had, and then I will act as a Spy. Tell Colo. Butler his Family are all well. Robert begins to walk. I shall send him down meat meal and Corn and do for the best. I want to know what he has done with David Hays bond. My Family are all well and so is all our Friends.

I am D Sir your Frnd. etc